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Animal Crackers

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Animal Crackers

Dog Show Disqualifications

The Rules of the American Kennel Club state. "A dog which is blind, deaf, castrated, spayed, or which has been changed in appearance by artificial means except as specified in the standard for its breed, or a male which does not have two normal testicles normally located in the scrotum, may not compete in any show and will be disqualified." The only exceptions are that a castrated male may be entered as Stud dog and a spayed bitch may be entered as Brood Bitch in these classes, and neutered dogs and spayed bitches may compete in Veterans Classes only at independent specialties or all-breed shows which do not offer competition beyond Best of Breed (no groups or best in show).

A number of breed standards have disqualifications including weight, height and color. If a dog is disqualified on three separate occasions, by three different judges, under its breed standard or for not having two normal testicles, this dog may not be shown again.

A.K.C. lists eleven surgical procedures which would make a dog ineligible to compete in shows because their appearance has been changed by artificial means.

1. The correction of entropion, ectropion, trichiasis, or distichiasis.
2. Trimming, removal or tattooing of the third eyelid (nictitating membrane).
3. The insertion of an eye prothesis.
4. Correction of harelip, cleft palate, stenotic nares, or an elongated soft palate resection.
5. Any procedure to change ear set or carriage other than that permitted by the breed standard.
6. Restorative dental procedures, the

use of bands or braces on teeth, or any alteration of the dental arcade.

7. The removal of excess skin folds or the removal of skin patches to alter markings.
8. Correction of inguinal, scrotal, or perineal hernias.
10. Alteration of the location of the testes or the insertion of an artificial testicle.
11. Altering the set or the carriage of the tail.

Another list gives procedures undertaken to restore the health of the dog and would not, in themselves, render the dog ineligible to compete.

1. The repair of broken legs, even if such procedures involve the insertion of pins, plates or wires.
2. The removal of damaged cartilage.
3. The repair of ligaments that have ruptured or been torn.
4. Caesarian sections.
5. The repair of umbilical hernias.
6. The removal of tumors or cysts.
7. Gastric torsion/bloat surgery.
8. Splenic torsion surgery.
9. Tonsillectomy.
10. Correction of "Cherry Eye", (which involves the *gland* of the nictitating membrane).
11. Debarking.
12. The removal of dewclaws if a regular practice in the breed.

Inherited problems are a growing concern. Concealing defects by surgical means can only result in the deterioration of a breed. AKC provides limited registration (litters produced by the dog are not eligible for AKC registration but the dog may compete in all AKC-licensed events except breed competition). This limited registration serves as proof that the dog is purebred for those not interested in breeding or exhibiting at championship shows.

The Perfect Puppy — How to Choose a Dog By Its Behavior

By Benjamin L. Hart, D.V.M. and Lynette A. Hart

(W.H. Freeman & Co., 41 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10010, \$12.95 soft cover)

This book, first published in 1988, is now in its ninth printing. It gives a character analysis of 56 popular dog breeds based in interviews with veterinarians and obedience judges who understand how different breeds act in different situations. Different breeds are suited for different environments. The authors use thirteen behavioral characteristics in ranking breeds — excitability, general activity, snapping at children, excessive barking, playfulness, obedience training, watchdog barking, aggression toward other dogs, dominance over owner, territorial defense, demand for attention, destructiveness, and ease of housebreaking.

Home environment is most important in selecting a dog. There are different requirements for families with children, a person living alone and away at work most of the day, and elderly couples who want the dog for companionship.

Impulse buying should be avoided. This book is a great help in selecting a puppy that will fit into your household, based on breed characteristics. Take time to think about the breed which will be "right" for you for the next ten years or so.

Canaan Dogs and Jack Russell Terriers

In August 1997, Canaan dogs became the 141st breed recognized by the American Kennel Club as eligible for championship competition. They are in the Herding Group.

The Canaan dog is an ancient breed which developed in the relatively small region defined today as Israel. Dogs very similar in type appear in tomb drawings dating as far back as 2200 B.C. In 1934, Professor Rudolphina Menzel, who had emigrated from Austria to the British mandate of Palestine (now Israel), was asked by the Jewish defense forces to set up a service dog organization. She used local pariah dogs which roamed freely in the desert and were sometimes used as flock guardian and herding dogs. They exhibited remarkable survival skills, tolerating heat, needing comparatively little water and getting by with little food. Menzel began to domesticate them, calling them Canaan dogs. With their highly developed sense of territory, they made natural watchdogs, and also quickly became devoted and loving companions. During World War II and the Israeli War of Independence, Menzel's Canaan dogs served as sentries, messengers and landmine locators. In 1953, the Israel Kennel Club accepted the standard prepared by Menzel, which is similar to the one accepted by the AKC. The first Canaan dogs were imported to the United States in 1965.

The standard states that the Canaan dog is a herding and flock guardian, aloof with strangers, inquisitive, loyal and loving with its family. It has a wedge-shaped head with low-set erect ears, a bushy tail that curls over the back when the dog is excited and a straight, harsh, flat-lying coat. Dogs generally weigh 45 to 55 pounds and bitches approximately 35 to 45 pounds. Dogs less than 20 inches or more than 25 inches and bitches less than 18 inches or more than 23 inches are disqualified. One breeder describes the Canaan dog as quick-minded and keenly sensitive, alert, intelligent and responsive, whose physical features reflect the natural economy of survival: moderation, balance, adaptability and natural toughness.

The Jack Russell terrier is another breed recently recognized by AKC. It will be eligible for competition in the Miscellaneous Class January 1, 1988. This is a step on the way to eligibility to compete in a variety group at AKC shows. No championship points are

awarded from the Miscellaneous Class. Other breeds in this category are Anatolian shepherds, Havanese, Lowchen and Spinoni Italiani.

The Jack Russell has become extremely popular and appears frequently on television. This terrier was developed in the south of England in the 1800s. It is named after the Reverend John Russell, whose terriers trailed the hounds and bolted the fox from dens so the hunt could ride on.

Their ideal height is 14" at the withers for a mature dog, 13" for a bitch. Under 12" or over 15" is a disqualification. The coat may be smooth or broken. Color is predominantly white with black and/or tan markings which preferably are confined to the head or root of the tail. The standard includes overt aggression toward other dogs or humans as a disqualification. The temperament is given as bold and friendly, athletic and clever. At work he is a game hunter, tenacious and courageous. At home he is playful, exuberant and overwhelmingly affectionate. He is an independent and energetic terrier and requires his due portion of attention. He should not be quarrelsome. Shyness should not be confused with submissiveness. Submissiveness is not a fault.

The Jack Russell Terrier Association of America has a Code of Ethics to protect the breed. It makes welfare and health the first criteria in breeding Jack Russell terriers.

Statistics

Statistics estimate that there are 59 million cats and about 53 million dogs in the United States. Another report concluded that there are 6.9 million horses in this country. When this figure is broken down according to activity, 725,000 horses are involved in racing and race horse breeding, nearly two million are used in showing and three million for recreation, while 1.2 million are used in other activities, such as farm and ranch work, rodeo, polo, police work, etc. The horse industry is a \$25.3 billion business.

Poison Control Center

The ASPCA National Animal Poison Control Center is a 24-hour emergency

service. It is the only animal-oriented poison control center in North America. The Center is staffed by veterinary health professionals who are familiar with different species' response to poisons and treatment protocols. The staff can make specific, accurate recommendations for your animals.

1-900-680-0000

\$20 for 5 minutes and \$2.95/minute thereafter.

1-800-548-2423

\$30/case, credit card only (Visa, MasterCard, Discover or American Express ONLY).

When calling, be ready to provide:

- Your name, address and telephone number;
- The substance your animal has been exposed to, if known;
- Information concerning the exposure (the amount of substance, the time since exposure to the substance, etc.);
- The species, breed, age, sex, weight and number of animals involved;
- The problems your animal is experiencing.

The service is available to animal owners as well as veterinarians.

Greyhounds

Graceful, strong, intelligent and sensitive are words aptly describing the greyhound. Far more than just a racing dog, the greyhound has been a favorite household and hunting companion.

Interesting facts are found in Cynthia A. Branogan's book, *The Reign of the Greyhound* (Howell Book House):

- Greyhounds are the only breed of dog mentioned in the Bible.
- Greyhounds appear in both Greek and Roman mythology.
- Alexander the Great's favorite dog was a greyhound.
- Greyhounds were the first European dog in the New World, brought from Spain in 1493.
- General Custer coursed his 14 greyhounds the night before the Battle of Little Big Horn.
- Each year in the United States, over 16,000 retired racing greyhounds begin new careers as pets. 🐾